

SITUATION REPORT NO. 39
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: May 9, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North is within inches of dropping below 10-foot flood stage at Wahpeton as the river continues its slow decline at North Dakota gauging sites. The river at Wahpeton was at 10.46 feet on May 9. The river crested twice at 19.2 feet on April 5 and April 18. Farther downstream at Grand Forks, the river level was at 38.94 feet, a 1.33-foot drop during the past 48 hours. The river at Grand Forks had crested at 54.2 feet on April 22; flood stage is 28 feet. At Drayton, the river measured 41.75 feet, a 0.20-foot drop during the past 48 hours. The river crested at Drayton at 45.55 feet on April 25; flood stage is 32 feet. The river at Pembina has dropped to 51.54 feet, a nearly one-foot drop during the past 48 hours. The river crested at 54.94 feet on April 26; flood stage is 42 feet.

Gusty winds caused Devils Lake water to overtop N.D. Highways 19 and 20, which were closed until further notice on May 8 by N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT). The lake at Creel Bay had risen to 1,440.5 feet MSL on May 9. State health and Fort Totten officials are concerned that road closures will cause delays in response time for emergency medical vehicles. The closure of N.D. Highway 20 adds 21 miles to transporting patients from Fort Totten to Devils Lake. The closure of N.D. Highway 57, which occurred earlier this week, adds five additional transport miles between the two cities.

Flood waters also resulted in the closure of I-94 near Hobart Lake to all traffic except tractor-trailers. Other traffic is being rerouted to Barnes County Road 10, from exit 288 to 283. N.D. DOT has reopened I-29 to Joliette, but the interstate remains closed at the Canadian border until May 19 because of repairs to a flood-damaged bridge.

The N.D. Department of Health conducted an injury surveillance May 2-5 in Grand Forks and found 37 people suffered from lacerations or punctures, six reported foreign particles in their eyes, three had fractures, three had sprains, and seven had miscellaneous injuries.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army's "Operation We Care" includes feeding and coordinating more than 100 volunteers daily to help clean homes and distribute cleaning supplies in Grand Forks. Five mobile feeding units are serving meals daily to Grand Forks residents. The distribution centers in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks continue to supply about 3,000 people each day with food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies and water.

The American Red Cross had three shelters in operation on May 7 for 345 people displaced by flooding. Nearly 27,000 meals were served to displaced persons and flood workers. To date, the Red Cross has sheltered 5,084 people and has served 393,108 meals.

Approximately 7,500 households will receive \$2,000 from the "Angel Fund," established after an anonymous California donor donated \$15 million to date.

The Hutterites assembled 4,000 supplemental cleanup kits for use by Grand Forks area residents. To date, 16,000 of 25,000 cleanup kits, ordered by the Department of Health, have been assembled by volunteers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Recovery efforts in Grand Forks include opening of additional housing for displaced persons, restoration of electrical service, and opening of restaurants and gas stations. The Red Cross is consolidating three Grand Forks-area shelters into one, which will be located at the Eagle Arena. Plans are also in progress to secure dormitory rooms at University of North Dakota for displaced persons. Two comfort stations, which include showers, will be placed in the Lincoln and Riverside areas for residents. As electrical, structural and gas inspections are complete, service is being restored to Grand Forks residents. In Grand Forks, approximately 6,550 electrical customers and 6,390 natural gas customers remain without service.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are scheduled to open next week in Cavalier, Drayton and Pembina. The DRC teams are comprised of staff from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. Department of Human Services and the Small Business Administration. The Cavalier DRC will be open May 12-13 at the American Legion Club. The Drayton DRC will operate from the new City Office May 14-15. And, the Pembina DRC will be open May 16-17 at 172 Rolette Street West. DRCs in Grand Forks and Fargo continue to operate six days a week, Monday through Saturday. All DRCs are operating 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Public Assistance inspectors are writing Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) at two satellite offices in western North Dakota counties. The Dickinson satellite office is staffed by nine state inspectors, one state team manager/reviewer, six federal inspectors, one federal team manager and one federal reviewer. They are writing DSRs in Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope and

Stark Counties. Staff assigned to the Minot satellite office includes six state inspectors, one state team manager/reviewer, five federal inspectors, one federal team manager and one federal reviewer. Inspections are being conducted in Burke, McLean, Mountrail, Renville and Ward Counties. Two electrical teams, comprised of a state and a federal inspector, are working with private nonprofit electrical cooperatives. A state/federal team is conducting bridge inspections. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has assigned nine inspectors to serve as technical advisors in the Red River Valley and one inspector to the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) to assist with reviewing DSRs. The DFO processing center has received 117 DSRs. Of those, 65 have been obligated. DSRs have been completed for 36 applicants.

Public Assistance briefings have been scheduled for political subdivisions that have suffered disaster-related damages to public property. Inspections teams will start work on May 19 in all counties except Grand Forks, where teams will begin May 27. The briefings schedule is as follows.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Counties</u>
May 13	1:30 p.m.	Regional Law Enforcement Cass, Training Center, Fargo	Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill
May 14	8:30 a.m.	Law Enforcement Center Basement Meeting Room Jamestown	Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, McIntosh, Stutsman
May 14	2:00 p.m.	Ramsey County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room Devils Lake	Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner, Walsh
May 15	9 a.m.	State Capitol Pioneer Room, Judicial Wing	Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Logan, McHenry, Sheridan, Wells
May 21	(Time and location to be announced)		Grand Forks

The DFO has received 86 notice of interest applications from 19 counties, 47 cities, eight electric cooperatives, four tribal governments, two state agencies, one park district, one water district, three universities and one public school district.

N.D. State Radio Communications and Motorola are working together to provide a portable MHZ trunked radio system for flood work in Grand Forks. Motorola has supplied the radio system and 250 mobile radio units, primarily used by Grand Forks Public Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The system has a portable trailer with a 40-foot crank-up antenna system. In other activities, three State Radio law enforcement teletype terminals became operational on May 2 to help with Grand Forks area law enforcement calls.

Job Service North Dakota has received a six-week extension until June 30 to administer the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The program is for North Dakotans who are totally or partially unemployed as a result of disaster conditions. As of May 7, Job Service received 3,701 DUA claims and had processed 1,681 claims. Job Service has paid more than \$300,000 in benefits.

More than 30,300 North Dakotans have registered damages with the National Teleregistration Center. Of the applicants, 1,747 have applied for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA has approved 156 applications for nearly \$2 million in loans. As of May 8, the Individual and Family Grant Program has issued 137 checks amounting to more than \$120,000. The program's staff has closed 701 cases. The Disaster Housing Program has assisted 14,850 applicants, dispersing more than \$11 million in funds.

In response to the large volume of applicants, 16 new case workers have been hired for the Individual and Family Grant Program. These case workers participated in training earlier this week and are now assisting four other case workers in reviewing more than 14,000 applications.

"Operation Good Neighbor," the N.D. National Guard's response to flooding, has ended its task force operations in Cavalier. The National Guard has 22 missions in progress, primarily in Grand Forks, for water purification, equipment repairs and operation of generators. The last crew assigned to cattle removal efforts expected to complete work on May 8. Since operations began March 26, National Guard members have completed 278 missions. Personnel on duty on May 8 totaled 353.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. League of Cities offers donation information on its web page. The address is: "<http://www.ndlc.org>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Douglas C. Friez, State Director